

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TOM GULBRANSEN
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Steven Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Honorable Robert Calarco, Presiding Officer

FROM: Tom Gulbransen, Chairperson *TG*

DATE: December 14, 2021

RE: Proposed Indian Island Living Shoreline Project, Indian Island County Park, Town of Riverhead

At its December 8, 2021 meeting, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) reviewed the above referenced matter. Pursuant to Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code, and based on the information received, as well as information provided at the meeting by Nick Gibbons, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Parks, Tom Schaefer, P.E., Senior Associate, D&B Engineers and Aram Terchunian, Coastal Geologist, First Coastal Consulting, the Council advises the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive, in CEQ Resolution No. 37-2021, a copy of which is attached, that the proposed project be considered an Unlisted Action under SEQRA that will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment.

If the Legislature concurs with the Council on Environmental Quality's recommendation that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, the Presiding Officer should cause to be brought before the Legislature for a vote, a resolution determining that the proposed action is an Unlisted Action pursuant to SEQRA that will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment (negative declaration). However, if the Legislature has further environmental concerns regarding this project and needs additional information, the Presiding Officer should remand the case back to the initiating unit for the necessary changes to the project and EAF or submit a resolution authorizing the initiating unit to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (positive declaration).

Enclosed for your information is a copy of CEQ Resolution No. 37-2021 which sets forth the Council's recommendations. The project EAF and supporting documentation can be viewed online at <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Planning/Boards/CouncilonEnvironmentalQuality>.

cc: All Suffolk County Legislators
Amy Ellis, Clerk of Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Counsel of the Legislature
Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, Department of Economic Development and Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner, Department of Economic Development and Planning
Dennis Cohen, Suffolk County Attorney

**CEQ RESOLUTION NO. 37-2021, RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING
A SEQRA CLASSIFICATION AND DETERMINATION FOR THE
PURPOSES OF CHAPTER 450 OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE FOR
THE PROPOSED INDIAN ISLAND LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT,
INDIAN ISLAND COUNTY PARK, TOWN OF RIVERHEAD**

WHEREAS, at its December 8, 2021 meeting, the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) reviewed the project EAF and associated information submitted by the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, since the Indian Island Living Shoreline project was first considered by the CEQ on October 18, 2017, the project has been reviewed and received the required applicable approvals/permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS), the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and

WHEREAS, the current proposed Indian Island Living Shoreline Project (Project), which was modified from its original design by the above noted regulatory review process, now requires construction funding approval by the Suffolk County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, a presentation regarding the proposed Project was given at the December 8, 2021 CEQ meeting by Nick Gibbons, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Parks, Tom Schaefer, P.E., Senior Associate, D&B Engineers and Aram Terchunian, Coastal Geologist, First Coastal Consulting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is proposed along the Indian Island County Park's eastern headland, adjacent to Circle Drive, in an area of the Park that has been experiencing ongoing severe erosion; and

WHEREAS, this severe erosion is threatening sensitive archaeological/cultural resources, tidal marshland and Park infrastructure and has forced Suffolk County to frequently place sand in the area to keep the adjacent roadway (Circle Drive) from being undermined; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is proposed as an environmentally sustainable method to provide increased protection against erosion, stabilize the shoreline and the adjacent navigational channel and restore and enhance the Park's tidal marshland and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project involves the construction of a living shoreline project which consists of three project components: two segmented emergent rock sills; marsh habitat restoration/enhancement and a future contingent component involving a cantilevered PVC retaining wall covered with beach compatible fill and planted vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the segmented rock sills will be: placed approximately 10 to 75 feet from the shoreline, remain approximately 0.5 feet above water at high tide, seeded with shellfish such as oysters and designed to increase sand retention landward of the rock sills; and

WHEREAS, the marsh habitat restoration/enhancement will consist of additional wetland vegetation planting to stabilize the existing marsh areas and proposed created marsh area landward of the rock sills; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contingent cantilevered retaining wall will only be constructed if it is deemed necessary following any failure of the breakwaters and marsh restoration and after the CEQ has been briefed on the shoreline monitoring data and the need for the retaining wall; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contingent cantilevered retaining wall would be installed in the existing bluff and would be covered with approximately 2,000 cubic yards of beach compatible fill and planted with beach grass; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that based on the information received and presented, a quorum of the CEQ hereby recommends to the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive that the proposed action be classified as an Unlisted Action under the provisions of Title 6 NYCRR Part 617 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code; and, be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that based on the information received, a quorum of the CEQ recommends to the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive, pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code, that the proposed action will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment for the following reasons:

1. the proposed Project will not exceed any of the criteria set forth in Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.7 which sets forth thresholds for determining significant effect on the environment, as demonstrated in the Environmental Assessment Form;
2. the proposed Project does not appear to significantly threaten any unique or highly valuable environmental or cultural resources as identified in or regulated by the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York or the Suffolk County Charter and Code;
3. the proposed Project has been reviewed and received the required applicable approvals/permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS), the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE);
4. the proposed Project will provide increased protection against erosion and stabilize the shoreline which will protect the Park's archeological/historic resources;
5. the proposed Project will restore and enhance the tidal marshland adjacent to the Park's eastern headland which will enhance the tidal wetland habitat and surrounding ecosystem;
6. the proposed Project includes a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan that will insure that the Project is functioning as intended, identify the need for any repairs and inform the management of the living shoreline project going forward;
7. the proposed contingent cantilevered retaining wall component of the

Project will only be constructed if deemed necessary following any failure of the breakwaters and marsh restoration and only after the CEQ has been briefed on the shoreline monitoring data and the need for the retaining wall;

and, be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that it is the recommendation of the Council that the Legislature and County Executive adopt a SEQRA determination of non-significance (negative declaration).

DATED: 12/8/2021

PROJECT #: PKS-34-2021
RESOLUTION #: 37-2021
DATE: December 8, 2021

RECORD OF CEQ RESOLUTION VOTES VIA ZOOM

CEQ APPOINTED MEMBERS	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT	RECUSED
Robert Carpenter Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank De Rubeis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anthony Graves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Gulbransen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Haubner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hon. Kara Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katelyn Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Kaufman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constance Kepert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Ann Spencer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Herbert Strobel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation: Unlisted Action, Negative Declaration

Motion: Mr. Kaufman

Second: Mr. De Rubeis

Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Andrew P. Freleng, Chief Planner
Council on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, New York 11788
Tel: (631) 853-5191